

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 10 has been amended to replace “removable separation layer” by “separator”. Support for this amendment is found in the original application, in particular in paragraph [0030], page 17 of the original specification.

Further, new dependent claims 24-26 have been added. Support for these claims is also found in the original application, in particular in paragraph [0030], page 17 of the original specification.

In the Advisory Action, it is alleged that the term “removable” raises new issues and may be construed as applying to any layer which is not “required.”

This comment is respectfully traversed. It is submitted that the term “removable separation layer” is a term of the art which is accurately understood by a person of the art. However, in order to expedite prosecution, this term has been replaced by the corresponding term “separator” based on the disclosure at paragraph [0030], which is immediately recognized by a person of the art.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Serial Number: 09/929,063

Group Art Unit: 2812

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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